

Attorney Docket: 225/49834
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Dr. Christof Eberspächer et al.

Serial No.: 09/824,570

Group Art Unit: 1775

Filed: April 3, 2001

Examiner: J. Savage

RECEIVED SYNCHRONIZER RING

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REPLY

TC 1700

Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is being filed in response to the Office Action dated July 1, 2003 (Paper No. 19).

Independent claim 1 was rejected, along with the dependent claims of this application, as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,249,661 to Kawamura et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

As noted in the Reply filed on June 17, 2003, the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent does not disclose a synchronizer ring comprising a tribological coating which is permitted to be over 30% and up to 40% by weight of a solid lubricant as claim 1 requires. Again, the film 3 of the Kawamura et al. ('661) synchronizer ring has ceramic particles of 5 to 30% by weight disposed in molybdenum or a molybdenum alloy. Lines 30-35 in column 4 of the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent explicitly set forth that when the ceramic particles are present in an amount over 30 weight %, abrasion of the object

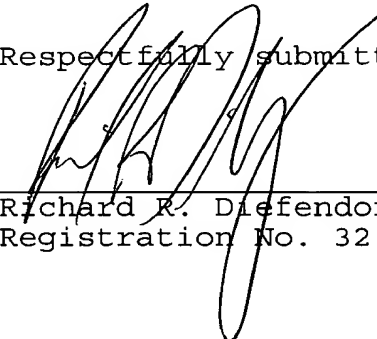
member may overexceed. In view of the discussion provided by lines 30-35 in column 4, modifying the Kawamura et al. ('661) film 3 so that it is permitted to be over 30% and up to 40% by weight of a solid lubricant certainly is not made obvious by the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent disclosure itself. Such a modification is also not suggested by anything else properly relied on by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 based on the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent are in order and are again requested.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable in its present form for reasons discussed above. The rest of the claims in this application depend on claim 1 and are patentable as well.

This application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 31, 2003



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